

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 EB-07 /060 W

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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4681

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 1556

FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EC, PFOR

SUBJ: DEMARCHE REGARDING GOE REACTION TO SECRETARY'S HOUSTON SPEECH

REF: STATE 048337

1. I MET AT 4:30 P.M. MARCH 5 WITH ACTING FONMIN VALDEZ (FONMIN LUCIO PAREDES IS IN ALGIERS) AND MADE POINTS INSTRUCTED REFTEL.

2. VALDEZ HEARD ME OUT WITHOUT INTERRUPTION AND THEN GAVE THE FOLLOWING EXPLANATION OF THE GOE ACTION. HE SAID THAT A REPORTER TRAVELING ABOARD PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ LARA'S AIRCRAFT HAD SHOWN THE PRESIDENT A COPY OF THE MARCH 2 EDITION OF EL UNIVERSO, GUAYAQUIL'S LARGEST DAILY, WHICH CARRIED AS ITS HEADLINE ON THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH "SEVERE 'REPRIMAND' TO ECUADOR AND VENEZUELA". THE UPI ARTICLE, VALDEZ SAID, DIFFERED FROM THE ACCOUNT OF THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH WHICH WAS CARRIED IN THE QUITO PAPER EL COMMERCE AND WHICH WAS ALSO BASED ON UPI REPORTS. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM THE REPORTER, PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ LARA SAID THAT IF THE REPORTS WERE AS STATED, THEN ECUADOR REJECTED THE US ACCUSATION THAT IT HAD BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN POSTPONING THE BUENOS AIRES MEETING, ETC. WHEN THE PRESIDENT'S PLANE STOPPED IN GUADALOUPE, THE REPORTER FILED THIS
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STORY. INSTRUCTIONS ALSO WENT BACK TO GENERAL CARLOS AGUIRRE,

CHIEF OF ADMINISTRATION IN THE PALACE, TO PUT OUT A PUBLIC STATEMENT ALONG THE LINES OF THE PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS.

3. WHEN VALDEZ RETURNED TO QUITO 7:00 P.M. SUNDAY, HE READ THE COMPLETE TEXT OF THE SPEECH WHICH I HAD SENT TO HIM AT HIS HOUSE. HE CALLED GENERAL AGUIRRE ABOUT THE DECLARATION THE GOE HAD PUT OUT. WHEN AGUIRRE READ THE STATEMENT TO HIM, VALDEZ SAID THAT IT DID NOT ACCORD WITH THE SECRETARY'S TEXT. AGUIRRE'S REPLY WAS THAT THE GOE DECLARATION HAD CONTAINED A CAVEAT ABOUT "EXPRESSIONS WHICH THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS HAVE ATTRIBUTED TO..."

4. IN CONCLUDING HIS EXPLANATION, VALDEZ REFERRED TO THE CONVERSATION AMBASSADOR CARDENAS HAD WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS (STATE 048538), AND SAID THAT THE GOE REGARDED THE MATTER AS CLOSED AND WOULD NOT PUBLICLY RECUR TO THE SUBJECT.

5. I THANKED VALDEZ FOR HIS EXPLANATION BUT EXPRESSED AGAIN REGRET THAT THE GOE ACTED WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE OF THE TEXT. VALDEZ DID NOT REPLY, BUT SAID TO ME THAT THE MINISTER, HE HIMSELF, AND THE GOE (IN THAT ORDER) WERE DESIROUS OF MINIMIZING PROBLEMS BETWEEN US AND OF IMPROVING OUR MUTUAL RELATIONS. I ACKNOWLEDGED AND RECIPROCATED HIS COMMENTS, BUT THEN INQUIRED WHY IT WAS THAT THE GOE COULD NOT MAKE EVEN THE MOST MINIMUM ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE FACT THAT THE ADMINISTRATION OPPOSED THE OPEC PROVISIONS IN THE TRA AND WAS SEEKING TO AMEND THEM. VALDEZ RATHER LAMELY OFFERED THE SAME EXPLANATION MADE TO DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL BY LUCIO PAREDES IN NOVEMBER THAT IT WAS AFTER ALL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WHAT THE ADMINISTRATION ASKED FOR AND WHAT THE CONGRESS DID. I ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THIS WAS TRUE, BUT REITERATED MY POINT THAT I COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE GOE WOULD NOT PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE FACT THAT THE ADMINISTRATION AND SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD FORMALLY ASKED FOR THE REPEAL OF THE PROVISION WHICH HAD CAUSED THE GOE SO MUCH ANGUISH. VALDEZ SAID AFTER REFLECTING THAT HE THOUGHT THIS MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA AND THAT ON SOME SUITABLE OCCASION THE GOE WOULD MAKE A STATEMENT TO THAT EFFECT. AFTER DISCUSSING SOME

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OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS AT HIS INSTIGATION (REPORTED SEPTELS), VALDEZ TOLD ME AS I LEFT THAT THE GOE WOULD MAKE SOME COMMENT IN RECOGNITION OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORTS TO HAVE THE OBJECTIONABLE PART OF THE TRA REPEALED.

6 COMMENT: I CREDIT VALDEZ' EXPLANATION OF WHAT HAPPENED. AS AN INTELLIGENT MAN, HE CANNOT HELP BE

CHAGRINED AT THIS CHAIN OF EVENTS: AS A DIPLOMAT, HE
CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO SHOW IT. PROVIDED THE GOE LEAVES
THE SUBJECT ALONE, I SUGGEST WE CONSIDER THE MATTER CLOSED.
BREWSTER

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